CHICKASAW TIMES

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Chickasaw Princess Pageant Sept. 26 at Ada High School Cougar Activity Center

ADA, Okla. - Three young Chickasaw ladies will begin their reigns as 2011-2012 Chickasaw royalty during the annual Chickasaw Princess Pageant.

This year's pageant will begin at 6 p.m., Monday, Sept. 26 at the Ada High School Cougar Activity Center.

Young ladies will do their best to earn the title of Chickasaw Princess, Chickasaw Junior Princess or Little Miss Chickasaw.

The new royalty will have the honor and privilege of serving as Chickasaw Nation ambassadors at various functions and events across the country during their one-year reigns.

Chickasaw royalty for 2010-11 - Chickasaw Princess Sesiley Robertson; Chickasaw Junior Princess Taloa Underwood; and Little Miss Chickasaw Maegan Carney - will make their final appearances during the ceremony.

Chickasaw Princess participants are ages 17 to 25; Chickasaw Junior Princess, ages 12 to 16; and Little Miss Chickasaw, ages seven to 11. This year's Chickasaw Princess candidates are Hagen LeFors and Nacobi Walker.

In the Chickasaw Junior Princess category, the candidates are Mikayla Hook, Raechell Meely, Caitlynn Sparlin and Krysten Wallace.

Little Miss Chickasaw candidates are Keilyn Factor, Karissa Shico and Nevaeh Smith.

Princess Pageant participants will be judged on traditional Chickasaw dress, random questions, talent and poise.

The new royalty will be selected by a panel of judges and crowned by Governor Bill Anoatubby.

The new princesses will receive crowns, traditional dresses, shawls, sashes, trophies, gifts and cash prizes.

The Chickasaw princesses have been making appearances for many years.

The heritage of the princesses goes back to 1963 when Ranell (James) Harry, daughter of Chickasaw Nation Governor Emeritus Overton James, was appointed the first Chickasaw Princess.

All royalty candidates are required to be residents of the Chickasaw Nation and have a minimum one-quarter Chickasaw blood quantum, submit an essay, three letters of reference from non-relatives plus a 5x7 self-portrait.

Everyone is welcome to attend the pageant, and no ticket is required.

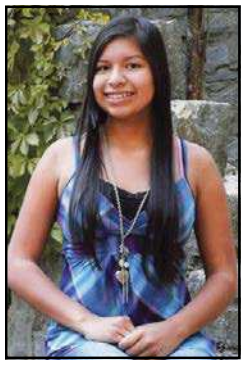
For more information about the Chickasaw Princesses, call (580) 272-7710, or email mary.hartley@chickasaw.net.

2011 - 2012 Chickasaw Princess Candidates

Hagen LeFors
Chickasaw Princess Candidate

Nacobi Walker
Chickasaw Princess Candidate

Mikayla Hook
Chickasaw Junior Princess Candidate



Raechell Meely
Chickasaw Junior Princess Candidate

Caitlynn Sparlin
Chickasaw Junior Princess Candidate

Krysten Wallace
Chickasaw Junior Princess Candidate

Keilyn Factor
Little Miss Chickasaw Candidate

Karissa Shico
Little Miss Chickasaw Candidate

Nevaeh Smith
Little Miss Chickasaw Candidate

The Chickasaw Times
Post Office Box 1548
Ada, OK 74821

Chickasaw Princess Candidates

Hagen LeFors

Hagen LeFors

Hagen Faith LeFors is the 23-year-old daughter of Gary and Cheryl (Carney) Weeden. She is a sophomore at Murray State College, Tishomingo, Okla.

"Why I would like to be Chickasaw Princess"

Chukma! My name is Hagen LeFors. I currently attend Murray State College to become a preschool teacher, my dream job, and I work full-time for the Chickasaw Nation.

I am an assistant teacher at the Chickasaw Nation Child Development Center, Ada, Okla. I have a classroom full of loving, yet full of energy two-year-olds. I love my job with my whole heart. My top reasons for wanting to be Chickasaw Princess are to learn more of my heritage and culture and to be the best role model I can be for my kiddos and the younger kids around me.

Becoming the Chickasaw Princess would give me the biggest opportunity to learn more about my heritage and culture. I am proud to be who I am. I am both Choctaw and Chickasaw, but would love to learn more about my Chickasaw heritage.

My Grandma is a fluent speaker of the Choctaw language and has taught me some language and hymns. She has been a big influence in my life. She has shared many life stories and experiences with me that I have learned from. With the years I have been at the Child Development Center I have picked up on small phrases and words of the Chickasaw language, but still have much more to learn.

Working with my two-year-olds I learn something new with them each and every day. In turn, my top priority is giving back to the kids by showing them every day how to lead by example. I'm also thankful for the life experiences provided me by the younger kids at Grace Christian Fellowship, where I attend Church.

Being a great role model gives me that confidence I need to finish what I have started, to finish school and to accomplish my goal of becoming a pre-school teacher.

Nacobi Walker

Nacobi Walker

Nacobi Chantau Walker is the 19-year-old daughter of Darrell W. and Johnna (Ellis) Walker. She is a freshman at East Central University, Ada, Okla.

"Why I would like to be Chickasaw Princess"

Chukma! My name is Nacobi Chantau Walker. I am 19 years old and a freshman at East Central University (ECU). At ECU I am majoring in general business with hope to begin my own dance studio some day. I've been dancing for 17 years now and haven't stopped. Dancing is my passion in life as it drives and motivates me to be the best I can be.

I am also a member of the CLC which is the Chickasaw Learning Community program on campus. This is the first year for it at ECU, and the purpose is to "foster a learning environment in which students, faculty, staff and community interact to educate students for life in a rapidly changing and culturally diverse society."

I want to be Miss Chickasaw to have the opportunity to serve as a role model to teens and young adults. I feel like the things children see on television now do not provide them with positive influences to guide their lives. I believe they need someone in life to look up to and to bond with, and the prospect of being that influence is a huge responsibility which I regard with the utmost respect.

I previously served as your Junior Miss Chickasaw in 2006-2007, and it was an amazing experience to represent The Great Unconquered and Unconquerable Chickasaw Nation! I would love the opportunity to travel again and learn even more about our culture and traditions as well as those of other tribes. Sharing and being a part of our tribe's history is exciting! I enjoy learning about where we came from and helping to shape the direction we are heading.

Being Chickasaw is definitely a blessing! I am honored and privileged to be a part of our great Nation.

If given the chance to be your next Miss Chickasaw I would learn as much as possible to keep our nation strong and thriving, and be the best ambassador possible! We are the future of the Nation so it's important we try to serve and give back.

I would be honored to be considered as the 2011-12 Miss Chickasaw! Thank you!

Nacobi Chantau Walker

Chickasaw Junior Princess Candidates

Mikayla Hook

Mikayla Hook

Mikayla Ann Hook is the 15-year-old daughter of Michael and Deborah (Shelley) Hook. She is a freshman at Ada Junior High School, Ada, Okla.

"Why I would like to be Chickasaw Junior Princess"

My name is Mikayla Hook and I am 15 years old and a 9th grade student at Ada Junior High School.

I would like to be the Chickasaw Junior Princess for many reasons, such as making new friends, traveling, learning more about my culture, but the main reason is so that I could help spread the word about bullying.

I believe that I could be a posi-

Chickasaw Junior Princess Candidates

MIKAYLA HOOK

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tive role model because I try to be friends with everyone I meet. Every year I look for the new students and I introduce myself to make them feel more comfortable at school, or I've seen a group of students that I've seen get picked on or have secluded themselves and I've sat down and had lunch with them. I've never been bullied myself, but I have seen the effects that it can have on people and it makes me sad.

God made everyone into their own unique person and He loves each one of us just as we are. Society has put people into cliques and forced those that don't fall into those cliques to become outsiders.

Native American people didn't originally fit into those cliques many years ago, but we have overcome that. We were once bullied into leaving our homeland, but we overcame that and have now become knows as the Unconquered and Unconquerable Chickasaw Nation.

I want to be a representative of the Chickasaw Nation and be known for my friendship and acceptance of everyone I meet. "Be a Buddy, not a Bully," is the motto of the Ada Boys & Girls Club and I truly take that to heart. I hope that if selected as the Chickasaw Junior Princess, that I'll be able to show how kind and loyal that a Chickasaw can be. Even if I'm not selected I will still devote myself to making new friends with everyone I come in contact with.

Thank you,
Mikayla Hook

Raechell Meely

Raechell Meely

Raechell Paige Meely is the 13-year-old daughter of Mitchell Meely and Paula Thomas. She attends the eighth grade at Dickson Middle School, Dickson, Okla.

"Why I would like to be Chickasaw Junior Princess"

Chukma!

My name is Raechell Meely and this is my third year competing in the Chickasaw Nation Princess Pageant. I am now thirteen years old. I am in the eighth grade and currently attending school at Dickson Middle School. I am the daughter of Mitchell Meely and Paula Thomas, and a child of eight. I like meeting new people, attending Native American events and mission work. My family is very supportive when I participate in events like the Chickasaw Princess Pageant, and I myself enjoy it too.

There are many honors to being Chickasaw, such as, sharing our culture with others, knowing the history of our culture, and being able to represent our nation in a positive manner. It is an honor just to be Chickasaw and to have the benefits that we do today. I am honored and proud to be a citizen of the "Unconquered and Unconquerable Chickasaw Nation." It would be an even greater honor to become Junior Miss Chickasaw Nation 2011 - 2012 and be able to learn a lot more about our culture, it's history, and our language.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Raechell Meely

Caitlynn Sparlin

Caitlynn Sparlin

Caitlynn Marie Sparlin is the 12-year-old daughter of Joe Sparlin and Clarice Monetathchi Shirley. She is a seventh grade student at Tishomingo Middle School, Tishomingo, Okla.

"Why I would like to be Chickasaw Junior Princess"

Chuk-ma,

I am Caitlynn Sparlin, daughter of Jay and Clarice Shirley and Joe Sparlin. I am the granddaughter of Delores Monetathchi and Rance and Annette Biggs. I am 12 years old and currently in the seventh grade at Tishomingo Middle School. I am involved in many activities.

I am currently a middle school cheerleader and was chosen to be a part of the All American Cheerleading Squad. I am involved in basketball, track and my favorite sport is softball. I play for the seventh grade softball team and also play tournament softball! I also like to sing and I am a member of the Tishomingo Middle School Choir where I have competed in competitions and have been honored with various awards. My other hobbies include swimming, reading and taking care of my guinea pig, tumbling and pestering my brothers.

I have a big family and I love to spend time with them. I am the only girl and I have three brothers. We do many things together. I do my best in everything I do to make my family proud. I am proud to be a part of such a wonderful family. Every year we get together at the annual Underwood-Hamilton Reunion, that is my favorite part of summer because I get to spend time with all my family. It is fun and I always invite my friends to come.

I would be honored to be 2011 - 2012 Junior Miss Chickasaw. I want to serve and represent my people. I want to give back and do a good job for all the things that the Chickasaw Nation has given and done for me. If I were chosen to be Junior Miss Chickasaw I want to be a role model and set a good example.

To me the crown is much more than a title. It tells people who may not know who we are, that we are a strong and beautiful Nation.

When I was 2006 - 2007 Little Miss Chickasaw I did my best to represent the Chickasaw people and make them proud. I loved the experience of visiting and learning from my elders, the opportunity to serve was very enjoyable. If I were chosen to be the 2011 - 2012 Junior Miss Chickasaw it would again be an honor to represent the powerful and strong people who make this Nation unconquered and unconquerable.

Krysten Wallace

Krysten Wallace

Krysten Rachelle Wallace is the 13-year-old daughter of Jason and Kristi Poe-Wallace. She is a seventh grade student at Ada Junior High School, Ada, Okla.

"Why I would like to be Chickasaw Junior Princess"

Chukma! My name is Krysten Rachelle Wallace. I'm in the seventh grade at Ada Junior High School. I am a very active 13-year-old who loves to play sports, hang out with family and I love to go to church.

My parents are Jason and

SEE **KRYSTEN WALLACE**, PAGE 4

Little Miss Chickasaw Candidates

Keilyn Factor

Keilyn Factor

Keilyn "Ke-Ke" Ahni " Factor is the nine-year-old daughter of Stanley Factor and Gwen Burris. She is in the third grade at Latta Elementary School, Ada, Okla.

"Why I would like to be Little Miss Chickasaw Princess"

Chukma! Si hochafa Keilyn Ahni "Ke-Ke" Factor. I am nine years old and a third grade student at Latta Elementary School. My parents are Gwen Burris and Stanley Factor. My grandmother is Mildred Bohanon Burris and my deceased grandparents are Rev. Lee Burris, Zora Lee Lasher and Cleo McCurtain Factor. My maternal great-grandfather was Noah Burris and he and my paternal grandparents were full blood Chickasaw. This is how I get my 31/32 lineage.

I am a straight A student and I love to read. I am a member of the Abbit Society (A's and B's Because I Try) and a member of the Chickasaw Children's Choir and Chikasha Shnompoli (Children Speaking Chickasaw) club. I like to swim, cheer, ride my bike play with my friends and play with my puppy, Brancetyn and cat, Akosha.

I attend Round Lake Indian Church and I am active in our youth activities. I attended many Chickasaw camps this summer and learned much about our tribe and culture.

I would like to be the Chickasaw Princess because it would be fun to meet new friends and travel to different events. It would be an honor to wear the beautiful crown and represent the Chickasaw Nation.

If selected as Little Miss Chickasaw I will make my people proud and be a positive role model for our youth. Thank you for your consideration.

Chukmashke!

Ke-Ke Factor

Karissa Shico

Karissa Shico

Karissa Lauren Shico is the eight-year-old daughter of Felix Shico and Cynthia Cooper Ott. She attends third grade at Homer Elementary School, Ada, Okla.

"Why I would like to be Little Miss Chickasaw Princess"

Chukma!

My name is Karissa Shico. I am eight years old and in the third grade at Homer Elementary School. I am very proud to be a Chickasaw.

I want to learn about my Chickasaw heritage, meet new people and travel to exciting places. I want to become your next Little Chickasaw Princess.

I am the granddaughter of Artie "Pukni" Cooper, of Ada, Okla., the late Albert Spencer Cooper, Sr., the late Patricia Shico Baken, and the late Andrew Shico.

I have four big sisters, Christina Gore, Chasity Brokeshoulder, Chelsey Ott and Melinda Shico; and two big brothers, Zachery Ott and Derek Shico. I have two little special nephews, Spencer Gore and Baby Sean Shico. And a favorite brother-in-law, Oscar Gore.

Thank you,

Karissa Shico

Nevaeh Smith

Nevaeh Smith

Nevaeh Shay Smith is the 10-year-old daughter of Darius Malcolm Smith and Kara Jamae (Johnson) Berst. She attends the fourth grade at Latta Elementary School, Ada, Okla.

"Why I would like to be Little Miss Chickasaw Princess"

I would like to be Little Miss Chickasaw to represent my tribe and share my culture with others. I am proud to be Chickasaw and it would be an honor to be one of the three princesses that travel to other towns and show our pride in our heritage.

Being a Chickasaw princess would be a time that I would remember my whole life.

KRYSTEN WALLACE

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Kristi Wallace. I am the big sister of Jacob Wallace. My paternal grandparents are Joe and Hazel Wallace, and my maternal grandparents are Debra and the late Leo Poe. My great-grandmother is Pauline Walker and my great-great-aunt is Geraldine Hart-King.

I would like to tell you the reason why I would like to be the next Junior Miss Chickasaw Princess. I believe it would be a great opportunity for me to represent my family, church family and Chickasaw People as a positive role model for today's youth. I feel really connected to my Chickasaw heritage and it would be a great honor for me to represent the Chickasaw Nation.

I also appreciate all the things that the Chickasaw Nation has done for me and my family. I would like to show my appreciation to my tribe by being a representative for them as the Junior Miss Chickasaw Princess. I would like to be able to reach out to other kids and girls my age so I can encourage them to embrace our Culture and strive to take their part to help keep our culture growing.

I want to be a positive role model for girls and younger children including my cousins to take an active role and become very familiar with our traditions and culture to keep them thriving.

I have always wanted to travel and it would allow me to be able to travel to different places and learn not only new things about my heritage and culture but other tribe's beliefs, culture and heritages to. I just want to show other girls my age that if they put their mind to something then they can do anything in life.

So if I'm chosen the 2011 - 2012 Junior Miss Chickasaw Princess, I will wear the sash and gown with appreciation and honor.

Yokkookay!

Krysten Rachelle Wallace